

**The National Convention.—The Democratic Party.**  
The last Democratic National Convention at Baltimore designated Cincinnati as the place for holding the next Convention, and left the time for the assembling of that body to be fixed by the National Committee, composed of one person from each State.—That Committee met at Washington city on the 8th inst., and fixed upon Monday, June 21, as the most suitable day.

The meeting of a Democratic National Convention is an event which, under any circumstances, would be looked forward to with interest. At the present juncture of affairs, that interest becomes heightened by the peculiar position of the country and the exciting and dangerous character of the questions which threaten its peace. Under these circumstances, at this juncture of affairs, the name of *National*, as applied to the Convention, receives a double significance from the fact which must be appreciated by every patriotic man in the country, unblinded by prejudice, that it will be the only really national convention, representing the only really national party in the country, and that upon its action important results must inevitably depend.

In regard to what will be the positions assumed by that body, and what manner of men will be put forward by it, as the Democratic candidates for the Presidency and vice Presidency, there cannot be the shadow of a doubt. Never before in the history of the country, did the broad national spirit of the party exhibit itself more strongly; never did it contrast more favorably with the aims or factions which oppose it. Compare it with the Know Nothing party in the House of Representatives. At the North, State after State, in which Congressional or other elections were held, went against the Democrats, and each State, as the result became known, was proclaimed here at the South, as having given a fresh victory to the Know Nothings, and afforded a fresh evidence of the invincibility of "Sam." "Sam" and his allies triumphed! and the Democratic party was prostrated, even in the President's own State by the combined forces; and, as a result of this triumph, we have John P. Hale, elected by the abolition K. N. Legislature of New Hampshire, standing up in the Senate to abuse the eminently able and national message of the President, and spit out his miserable abuse against the South, and her people. Three abolition members of Congress from the same State, chosen by the same coalition, vote for Banks, and stand ready to go as far as the farthest against the South. Yet look at the House. The Democracy of the North, overwhelmed and defeated as it was, sends three times as many national men to Congress as all the other parties in that section. The feeble remnant of the Democratic party of the North, contains three times the national feeling of the multitudinous hosts of "Sam" and his triumphant allies. These are facts which stand bold and full upon the record, and every vote for speaker shows it.

Look outside of Congress, and the same state of affairs will be found to exist. Upon every occasion in which the Democratic party in any Northern State has been called upon to act, or to give expression to its views, it has come out boldly upon national grounds; in Pennsylvania, in New Jersey, in New York, and, by the way, look at the resolutions adopted by both wings of the Democratic party in the New York Legislature—in New Hampshire, in Maine, every where in fact, this has been the case. There will not be a delegation sent to Cincinnati that will not be ready to meet their Democratic brethren from the South upon Constitutional ground. The signs of the times unmistakably point to this consummation, a consummation as certain to occur as it is desirably to be wished. It is surely then, no exaggeration to say that, in the view of every national man, the Cincinnati Democratic National Convention must be regarded as among the most important bodies which have ever met in the United States, and that its assembling must be looked forward to with deep interest.

The total repudiation of the 12th section of the Philadelphia platform by the order in every Northern State—the fact that, with the six exceptions who vote for Mr. Fuller, every Northern member of that order in the House votes for Mr. Banks; "the representative of the strongest anti-slavery district in the Union"—the complete separation between the two sections—all, abundantly demonstrate that any meeting together upon national grounds is a thing totally impossible for the Know-Nothing order, or "American party," as its members like to call it.—Indeed, so fully convinced of this are the far-seeing leaders, that they say plainly that any attempt to do so must result in rupture and ruin. So says the "American Organ," the central press of the party, so says Mr. John Minor Botts, so say the United Councils of Richmond. What mode of escape is proposed by these self-elected guardians of the country's welfare—these gentlemen who designate all who cling to the opinions they have examined and the party they have tried—"anti-Americans"? They coolly assure the South that she must ignore the question of slavery, and the excitement about it. A pretty time to talk about ignoring the question of slavery! As well tell the farmer, when the inventory is abroad, to ignore the existence of fire! It will not be ignored.

While this is the real position of parties—while so much for the country depends upon the action of the Democratic party, and the triumph of its principles in the coming contests of this year, it certainly behooves the members of that party to omit no fair and honorable means tending to success. They certainly ought not to rest supine and careless, making no effort to organize for the dissemination of truth while a wily and unscrupulous antagonist works with unflagging zeal in the propagation of error. It is no mere party question. The country demands of every Democrat that he should do his duty.

By invitation of J. H. Flanner, Esq., consignee, a pleasant party of gentlemen met Thursday on board the new Schooner George Davis, where everything was provided that could tend to cheer the heart and promote the flow of soul. We regret that business engagements prevented our enjoying the pleasure of being present.

The George Davis is a fine schooner of 340 tons, will carry about 3000 barrels naval stores, built at New Castle, Delaware, and intended for the freight business. She is 106 feet long, 30 feet beam, 10 feet hold, draws 12 feet water. Named after our townsman, George Davis, Esq., and owned part here and part North.

**Election in Smithville.**  
An election for Commissioners of the town of Smithville was held on Monday, the 7th inst., and resulted in the triumph of the Democratic ticket by nearly two to one. The following are the gentlemen chosen:—Charles G. Dasher, Julius Dasher, A. J. Galloway, Thos. W. Wescott, Arthur Turner. Last year the Know-Nothing board was elected by a majority. The second trial is fatal to them. We will have 'em here next time.

**THE SOUTHERN CULTIVATOR.**—We have received the January No. for 1856, of this truly valuable agricultural work, published at Augusta, Ga. This is the first No. of the 14th vol. Price \$1 per vol.

**The Cold Spell.**  
The weather during the past week or two seems to have exceeded in the intensity of its cold, anything known for years. In the Western part of this State "the oldest inhabitant" recollects nothing to match it since the famous "cold Saturday," in 1835, we believe. As far West as Greensboro' ice has been cut some five inches in thickness. Here, the lowest point that we have heard of the thermometer reaching, was between 18 and 19 degrees—some 12 or 13 below freezing, but nothing to the cold "that you read about." In Philadelphia, on the 9th inst., the thermometer stood at 6 degrees below zero in the morning, and but 1 degree above zero at noon, the lowest in 32 years. The Delaware was frozen perfectly tight. The thermometer also stood several degrees below zero in Washington City, and in Baltimore. At Springfield, Ohio, the cold was reported at 20 degrees below zero, but this seems doubtful, as that was about the worst it could do in the Arctic regions, where Dr. Kane got frozen in.

The snow storm seems also to have been pretty general, extending all along from Boston to Columbia, S. C., missing our locality; however, because of our proximity to the sea. The mails will, no doubt, continue to be considerably deranged for some time to come.

The situation of those unfortunate, especially abounding in the large cities at the North, whom the advancing season finds unprepared to meet its rigors, must be painful in the extreme. How, in their wretched and fireless rooms, scantily clothed and scantily fed, they can weather such a winter is hard to see; but they do weather it somehow, though no doubt, many sink under their privations, or receive into their systems the seeds of those diseases which shorten their lives and render the brief remnant of them worthless. It may be that much of this poverty and sufferings is the result of improvidence, but again, much of it is not, and many of the victims suffer from the improvidence of others, and not of themselves. One half of the world does not know how the other half lives. This is the season in which those blessed with a liberal, or comparatively liberal, share of this world's goods ought, as far as possible, to make certain that their less favored brethren do live, and have the means of doing so, without enduring sufferings or painful privations, which it is their duty and their privilege to relieve.

**New York.—Naval Stores.**  
We take the annexed carefully compiled statement of the comparative imports and exports of naval stores, at the port of New York, for the last five years, from the circular of Messrs. Watson, Meares & Rountree, of that city. It will be found of interest to parties engaged in the business:

RECEIPTS AT PORT OF NEW YORK.				
Date.	Turpentine.	Spts. Turpentine.	Rosin.	Tar.
1851	168,652	76,200	283,710	38,971
1852	189,701	81,335	292,161	37,076
1853	135,174	117,337	298,769	41,715
1854	126,152	125,545	498,383	67,792
1855	97,670	132,142	534,386	72,661

EXPORTS FROM PORT OF NEW YORK.				
Date.	Turpentine.	Spts. Turpentine.	Rosin.	Tar.
1851	156,827	6,546	173,855	22,524
1852	189,701	7,451	227,669	15,969
1853	135,174	26,518	298,769	14,599
1854	126,152	46,200	419,304	53,312
1855	97,292	47,816	469,000	55,591

**Armory of the Wilmington Light Infantry.**  
WILMINGTON, N. C., JANUARY 10, 1856.  
WHEREAS, The Wilmington Light Infantry, as a military organization, has, in its wisdom, removed from our midst our highly esteemed friend and fellow-citizen, Sergeant A. J. MASHBURN, therefore,  
Resolved, That in his death this Company has lost an able and efficient officer, and an esteemed member; one always zealous and faithful in the discharge of his duties.  
Resolved, That the members of this corps feel his loss seriously, and deeply sympathize with the relations of our deceased friend.  
Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to the family of the deceased, and that they be published in the city papers.

**Important Foreign News.**  
New York, Jan. 9.—The foreign papers by the steamship Canada, contain important news from Europe. Count Esterhazy, the Austrian envoy, who recently visited St. Petersburg, had returned to Vienna. It is stated that he brought with him the Austrian ultimatum in regard to peace between the Allies and Russia. The Austrian ultimatum, after modification, had received the approval of England and France. The terms proposed by this ultimatum are secret. Russia has not replied, but she would send a representative to the conference. It is reported that the Swedish ambassador at Vienna had formally announced the adherence of Sweden to the Allies' interpretation of the four points. It is doubtfully rumored that Russian proposals of peace differ from those of the Allies, had been received at Vienna. The English government, it is said, have announced their intention to reduce the army. The London News says that a majority of the French Cabinet think that Russia will accept the proposed terms for making peace. A majority of the English Cabinet, however, think otherwise. The terms of the Swedish treaty with the allies are regarded as a good thing, it is understood, provides that Sweden will eventually take the field against Russia. Vienna correspondents intimate that Austria had declined the invitation of Prussia to join her in a Pacific intervention. It is also stated that Louis Napoleon had recalled the invitation for Prussia to open negotiations; but in November Austria invited the "Western Powers to re-open the Peace Conference at Paris recommending the maintenance of the status quo as a basis of negotiations, with modifications of them, that they respect the Russian dominion in the Black Sea.

**Mr. Fuller, of Pennsylvania.**  
This gentleman is receiving the votes of a number of Southern Know-Nothings. The Tennessee Know-Nothings are voting for him to a man, and among the number is Mr. F. K. Zollieffer, for whom Mr. Lake, of this State, is casting his vote. The position of Fuller, therefore, becomes one of important inquiry. Horace Greeley, writing to the Tribune, and calculating the chances and claims of the anti-Nebraska candidates, says:—  
"Both Banks and Campbell were in the last House, and fought the Nebraska bill faithfully from first to last. With Mr. Fuller, the case is different. Though not a new member he was out of the last House, and has not made his mark on the Nebraska question.—His friends tell us he is all right."  
The Washington Union throws some additional light upon the views of this man, whom the head-devil among the Abolition cohorts introduces to his readers as "all right":—  
"But, with all respect to Mr. Fuller, it is proper that we should state that, although he is said to be the best of the Northern opposition candidates for Speaker, he is among the last that any Democrat can support. Though not personally identified with Gov. Johnston, of Pennsylvania, he is known to have acted with the most notorious and unscrupulous abolitionists; and in the late Abolition canvass in Pennsylvania against the Democracy, Mr. Fuller was, of course, a participant, or else he could not have received the votes of the Abolition members of the present Congress from Pennsylvania as candidate for Speaker. The Southern Representatives who have voted for Mr. Fuller have doubtless done so believing him to be an eminently national Whig; but we think when this last Congressional canvass in Pennsylvania is over, and his more recent identity with the fusion Representatives from Pennsylvania, that they will not find it a very easy matter to justify their enthusiastic preference for such a man!"  
Mr. Lake, he it known, endorses the endorsement of Mr. Fuller!—Mississippi Statesman.

**Know Nothingism in Texas.**—The Democrats of Brazoria county, Texas, had a meeting on the 5th ult., and, after listening to two speeches in defence of Know Nothingism, resolved against that Order and in favor of the Georgia platform, and in approval of the Administration of President Pierce.

**The Speakership.**  
The Democratic members in Congress held a caucus on Monday night and resolved to adhere to Richardson, and resist all motions for an adjournment, in the hope of somehow arriving at a solution of the vexed question of the Speakership. The House continued in session on Wednesday, all Wednesday night, and until half past 8 o'clock on Thursday morning, when it adjourned over until Friday, and no Speaker. It is satisfactory to know that there is no ill-feeling in the House. The number of ballots had risen to considerably over a hundred. The whole number of votes cast at the ballottings during Wednesday night and Thursday morning was much smaller than usual, yet the relative proportion for the different candidates was maintained.—Every effort will be made hereafter to bring things to a point, and perhaps the election of a Speaker may not be such a remote contingency. "Still, it is impossible to say more than that, as soon as a Speaker is elected, and the wires can carry it, we will lay it before our readers.

**From the Washington Union.—A New Development.**  
The Southern representatives of the Know Nothing order in Congress had another opportunity presented to them on Friday.—The resolutions in the House, introduced by Mr. Seward, of Georgia, to vote for Col. Richardson, the Democratic candidate for Speaker:—  
Whereas, it is apparent, under the existing differences of opinion in this House, that no organization thereof can be effected without some effort to unite all who agree upon the doctrine of non intervention as asserted in the Kansas and Nebraska act;—and that the people of the Territories shall be left perfectly free to regulate their own domestic policy; and whereas it is indispensable to effect an organization that all differences of opinion on other questions should be postponed without compromise or concession on the part of any member voting for this resolution; be it  
Resolved, That William A. Richardson be chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Thirty-third Congress.

Mr. Seward offered this resolution in good faith: but how was it received by the Southern Americans in Congress? How was it received by those who profess to be devoted, heart and soul, to the institutions and interests of the South? The debate of Friday night on the subject, Hon. Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky, an experienced parliamentarian, and generally recognized as a leader of his peculiar organization, gave the proposition of Mr. Seward the go-by, on the ground that as the friends of the American principles (Know Nothing doctrines) were in the majority in the hall, the Democrats ought not to ask the "Americans" to yield to them, but should leave the American majority to decide who should be the Speaker! The Abolitionists in the House, familiarly called the Republicans, are generally known as the Know Nothings also, and these added to the Southern Know Nothings, constitute the American party! Is this the party which Colonel Marshall suggests that the Democracy should yield to? There is considerable discussion going on among the Southern Know Nothing papers as to who is responsible for the disorganization of the House of Representatives; but we presume this new development will dissipate all doubts on the subject, and hereafter be entertained on the subject, at least in that quarter.

**THE MAN WITH WHITE HAIR.**—On the excursion train from Utica to Boonville, at the opening of the Utica and Black river railroad, our attention was attracted by the singular appearance of an apparently middle-aged man, whose hair and whiskers were perfectly white. We learned upon inquiry that he was a native of Ohio county, but was now a resident of California, where he has resided for several years, engaged principally in mining. The cause of his white hair he explained as follows: He was engaged in mining, and had several men at work in a mine which extended some ways under ground. One day he went to carry the dinner to his men, and when he had been there but a few minutes, they heard the unmistakable sound of the caving in of the sides at the four men started at once, hoping to escape, but were met by the falling earth and crushed to death. He was enclosed in a space of about 6 by 12 feet, while three men below him were cut off from any communication with him, and he supposed they were crushed to death. He had a light and plenty of water and provisions, but his chances of ever seeing daylight were not very flattering, as he was some 60 or 75 feet from the surface of the earth, and he was not certain that the disaster would be discovered in time to make any attempt to relieve him; and if such attempt should be made, the prospect was that it would prove ineffectual.

Fortunately the disaster was early discovered and a large force was set at work, and after unremitting exertions for three days and nights, he was discovered in an exhausted condition. The three men below him were also found alive. When taken out, the white-haired man was found to be only a few months past his prime. His hair had also become nearly white during his confinement. His feelings during those three days he claimed could not be imagined, but that his whole life passed rapidly in review, and that every act was brought vividly to mind. In fact those three days appeared a life time to him. He said that the sight of one of those shafts always caused a shudder to pass over him.—*Waterbury News*, Dec 23.

**HORSE FLESH FOR FOOD.**—The French are adding to their dietetic regimen by introducing new articles of food, and their gastronomic innovations are in the use of horse flesh. It is only a few months since a less person than M. St. Hilaire, Professor of Zoology at the garden of Plants, threw the weight of his high authority on the side of this aliment, not as a dernier resort for a famishing people, but as a wholesome and savory meat, deserving to be ranked along with the choicest commodities of the butcher's stall. The editor of the Union Medicale gives an amusing account of a dinner to which he was invited the other day, by the Count de Bismarck, a good Veterinary School at Alfort. The object proposed was a comparative test of the qualities of beef and horse flesh served up in three standard forms in which they are employed by the French people. 1st.—*Bouillon*, (water containing the juices of meat that has been boiled in it, much used by the French as soup.) 2d.—*Bouilli*, (the meat thus boiled, and which is invariably the second dish served up at the table d'hôte.) 3d.—*Roast*. The horse flesh served on the present occasion was from an animal, which, after twenty three years of faithful service, had had the misfortune to be attacked with paralysis of the posterior limbs. He was, however, fat and exempt from any other signs of disease. Thus far the conditions were not the most favorable; a younger animal would have promised better results. The *bouillon* was declared excellent, the *roast* good, but the *steak* was not so good, but on the whole quite eatable; the *roast* occasioned an "explosion" of satisfaction. Nothing could be finer, more delicate, or tender; and the *steak* ranked with "les viandes de luxe le plus recherchées." The editor of the Union Medicale waited in good faith twenty-four hours before writing a line, that he might be able to declare that he wrote without the slightest "remorse of digestion." His conclusion is, that a horse twenty-three years old may furnish "a superior aliment," and that, for a good table *bouilli*, an exquisite *roast*, and a delectable *steak*.

**Report of Secretary of the Interior.**  
This morning we lay before our readers the very able and interesting report of the Secretary of the Interior. This Department was created in 1849, and few have any idea of the vast interests under its charge—our entire land system, the Indian Department, the Pension Bureau and Patent Office. It is said to be the most laborious Department under the Government, and is conducted with singular ability by the present incumbent, Mr. John B. Smith, who is the first incumbent—the notorious John A. Ewing. The one firm, just, able and courteous; the other remarkable for the want of these qualifications. The National Intelligencer publishes the document, which it styles "the able Report of the Secretary of the Interior," the most interesting, if not the most important of all the annual Reports of the various Departments, inasmuch as it presents the administrative history and condition of so large a proportion of the home affairs of the Government and country, embracing the subjects of Public Lands, Indian Affairs, Pensions, Patents, Public Buildings, &c. All of these matters the reader will find treated by Secretary McClelland comprehensively and lucidly, and in regard to our relations and duties towards the Indian tribes, in an enlightened and humane manner. The Secretary's report will also be gratified by the attention which our local interests have received in the Report, and the liberality with which they are urged on the attention of Congress.—*Richmond Enquirer*.

**COST OF GOVERNING NEW YORK.**—It seems that the original estimate of the New York Comptroller has been found, by the Board of Councilmen, to be too small, and at their meeting on Thursday night last, they reported that it would be absolutely necessary to add to the Comptroller's estimate the sum of \$14,932, or, in other words, that the tax for the next year will fall but a trifle below seven million of dollars—an increase over the tax levy of 1855, of one million ninety thousand five hundred and fifteen dollars!

**A MODEL RAILROAD.** The Hartford (Conn.) Times says that the directors of the Hartford and New Haven Railroad Company have declared an extra dividend of five per cent., payable on the 15th of January. The surplus earnings or dividend fund of this road, for the last September last amounted to \$415,326, or rather more than seventeen and a half per cent. on the capital stock. A large portion of the stockholders were strongly in favor of an extra dividend of ten per cent., but the majority decided that fifteen per cent. in cash was enough to divide in one year.

**Loss of Steamer Sam. Bery.**  
St. C. Bery, Capt. Guthrie, returning from Beaufort, N. C., where she had been to render assistance to Schreiner, (before reported ashore on Saturday morning last, 4 o'clock, went ashore on a reef about 3 miles south of Masonboro' Inlet. All hands were saved, with the exception of a free negro man, who was drowned while attempting to reach the shore. The boat will prove a total loss—no insurance; valued at \$20,000.

**For the Journal.**  
At a meeting held at the office of J. & L. L. Hathaway & Co., this afternoon, of the Wilmington Mercantile Library Association, (organized in 1849,) a quorum present, the following resolutions were passed:—  
Resolved, That we do hereby transfer all our right and title to the books and book-cases belonging to the Wilmington Mercantile Library Association to the Wilmington Library Association, (organized in 1849,) a quorum present, the following resolutions were passed:—  
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